

## [REVISED AND CORRECTED.]

In the year 1851, there was a meeting in the city of Lexington, in which I participated, by which Gen. Taylor was recommended for the Presidency of the United States. A difference of opinion existed at that time as to the political sentiments of that distinguished gentleman. I

political organization with which I am connected, have abandoned the ground on which we stood, in regard to the Territorial question in 1854 and 1856; that we then occupied a position which is now occupied by Mr. Douglas and his friends. I deny it; and I shall now proceed to disprove it.

hand, it is said that slavery, being in derogation of common right, can exist only by force of positive law; and it is deemed that the Constitution furnishes the law for the Territories; and it is further claimed that the local legislature may establish or exclude it any time after the government is organized. As both parties appeal to the Constitution and base their respective arguments on composite con-

and in the meantime, individuals in different sections of the Union put their own constructions on it. We are usefully brought to that state of things. There is a power which the Senator from Illinois can use—no words which he can put into an act of Congress—that will remove this Constitutional doubt until it is finally settled by the proper tribunal."

ized by the Constitution of the United States, and there is no word in that instrument which gives Congress greater power over it, or which entitles it to less protection than other property; but the only power which Congress has, is the power, coupled with the duty, of guarding and protecting the owner in his rights.

The argument consists of an appeal to the passions of one section of the Union against another section of the Union. Mr. Douglas











